

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
FEBRUARY 5, 2007 – 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Virginia Russell-Russell, Chairman  
Ben Moore, Vice-Chairman  
Rick Griffin  
James Workman  
Bill Lally  
Mark Gearreald, Interim Town Manager  
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

**REGRETS:**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.**

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Chairman Bridle-Russell announced the School Board Deliberative Session tonight at the Winnacunnet High School (February 5) starting at 7PM. She also stated that the Town Deliberative Session will be rebroadcast every Saturday until the election on March 13.

Mr. Lally commented on the success of the Penguin Plunge yesterday (February 4).

Mrs. Bridle-Russell reported that there were 773 plungers who raised over \$505,000 for NH Special Olympics.

**II. APPOINTMENTS**

None

**III. MINUTES – JANUARY 29, 2007**

Page 7 – Motion at Bottom of Page – the spelling of Steffen and Warren is incorrect

The January 29, 2007 minutes stand as corrected

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **1. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Gearreald thanked everyone for their thoughts and concerns for his wife who was in a car accident last Saturday (February 3) during the Deliberative Session. He is thankful that his wife endured the crash with relatively minor injuries. He is also pleased that the voters supported the Selectmen's amended budget at the Deliberative Session. This will enable the Town to function at least at its current level of staffing if another default budget results.

Mr. Gearreald has invited representatives from Fay, Spofford and Thorndike (FST) to attend the February 12 Selectmen meeting to discuss the west-side Beach Infrastructure project. Subjects such as the cost of the project and utility coordination will be addressed during this meeting.

According to state law RSA 31:95-d Article 44 & 45 of the Warrant will require a public hearing which will need to be posted 15 to 30 days prior to the March 13 vote (not the Deliberative Session).

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to schedule a public hearing for Article 44 & 45 regarding parking revenues for the Beach Precinct on February 26. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

##### **DISCUSSION:**

Chairman Bridle-Russell suggested that the petitioner, Charlie Preston and the Hampton Beach Commissioners be contacted to inform them of the hearing.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Mr. Gearreald reported on the meeting coordinated by State Senator Martha Fuller-Clark last Thursday, February 1, regarding the District Courthouse. A new Superior Courthouse is needed in Merrimack County. The estimated cost is \$20 to \$30 million and it is predicted that the project, due to its high price tag will be postponed for another year. If this is the case, then it is likely that other smaller, less expensive district courthouses may become a priority. The ideal location would have water and sewer access as well as public transportation. Sites for the District Courthouse were discussed during the meeting such as property across from the Lindt chocolate factory property in Stratham. The water tower location in Hampton has been discounted because of accessibility barriers. There was also discussion about another piece of property owned by the Department of Transportation off of Route 85. Mr. Gearreald also noted that the group expressed some interest in the former Hampton courthouse property along Winnacunnet Road. He brought to the Senator's attention that the Town Planner is working on a municipal building and property plan.

State Representative Nancy Stiles provided Mr. Gearreald with a copy of her proposed House Bill 412-FN-A, relating to a new bridge connecting Hampton and Seabrook. Within the document she has indicated an appropriation of \$8,000,000 to the Department of Transportation for the design and construction of a fixed span bridge over the Hampton River. Representative Stiles will be requesting \$100,000 of the previously mentioned amount, to be allocated towards the bridge design.

On October 30, 2006 the Selectmen voted to support the "minimal rehabilitation" of the bridge and to recommend the alternating one-way traffic for safety purposes. The minimal rehabilitation would provide a window of opportunity for local and regional officials to seek funding for a new permanent bridge. Representative Stiles has requested a letter of support from the Board of Selectmen for the proposed House Bill.

### **BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Mr. Griffin MOTIONED** to write a letter in support of the \$100,000 bridge design project and a new permanent bridge in reference to House Bill 412-FN-A. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

### **OTHER OLD BUSINESS**

Items resulting from the Deliberative Session include the chart created by Finance Director Schwotzer that explains how the proposed 2007 Operating Budget was derived. Mr. Lally requested that the chart be posted on the website and made accessible to residents at the Town Hall.

The Board will present a synopsis of the Warrant on March 5 to allow rebroadcast time. Residents and Board members interested in commenting on an article will be limited to 3-5 minutes. The agenda for that evening will be kept as short as possible.

Mr. Moore suggested that a short summary of the zoning articles be provided on the website and suggested residents email their comments to Paul Paquette (IT) to be posted. Mr. Gearreald noted that there is a summary sheet that has already been developed to explain the zoning ordinance articles. This information will be posted on the website.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

The Board received a letter requesting their support in writing a letter to Governor Lynch urging him to include funding that would continue improvements to the North Beach seawall.

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to write a letter in support of seeking funding from the State to repair the seawall. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

Mr. Gearreald commented on a letter he received from Taylor River Estates stating that a lien will or has been placed on two Town lots located within the Estates. The reason for the lien placement is due to unpaid Homeowners Association fees. It was questioned if the Town had received written communication regarding the fees. Mr. Gearreald is not certain if this is a legal lien and will need to investigate into the matter further. The assessed value of the property is approximately \$500.

Mr. Griffin said that Jay Diener has volunteered to produce a guidebook for new or current residents that include important items such as where to seek warrant article writing assistance.

Mr. Diener was present in the audience and was asked by the Board to present his idea. He noted that when he moved to Hampton he didn't know about various matters such as parking permits, building permits, etc.

To print 500 – 1,500 (40 page) guidebooks would cost approximately \$2,700. Mr. Gearreald said that perhaps the Chamber of Commerce would be interested in participating.

The Board felt that Mr. Diener's guidebook would be helpful to many people and they are in support of the project. The Board suggested that Mr. Diener meet with Mr. Gearreald and the Administrative Assistant to discuss the guidebook in greater detail.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**VII PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mary Boynton (20 Taylor River Estates) addressed the Board. She came before the Board to inform them that the Taylor River Homeowner's Association had sent letters and verbally requested payment of fees from the Town. Mrs. Boynton noted that the lots are not "buildable" and would like to see that the Association obtains ownership of these two lots. Mr. Gearreald asked if the lien documents had been filed. Mrs. Boynton said no.

**VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS:**

None

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** to adjourn at 7:26PM. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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**Chairman**